



Alvaro Martin and Maria Perez triumph in historic mixed marathon race walk | **P12**



Moment of Pride

Bahrain celebrates well-earned gold medal win at Paris Olympics



This is a moment of immense pride for Bahrain. This is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our athletes and the vision of our leadership

HIS HIGHNESS SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN ALI AL KHALIFA, DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE BAHRAIN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND HEAD OF THE BAHRAINI DELEGATION IN THE PARIS OLYMPICS

TDT | Manama

Bahraini officials accompanying the Kingdom's delegation in the Paris Olympics have expressed their immense joy at the well-earned gold medal won by Winfred Yavi in the women's 3,000 metres steeplechase at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Speaking exclusively with Ashen Tharaka of The Daily Tribune, Yavi shared insights into her historic victory and future aspirations.

Yavi described her achievement as "a dream come true."

"This win means a lot to me and the country," Yavi shared,

her voice filled with emotion.

Her spectacular final sprint allowed her to overtake Uganda's Peruth Chemutai, who led most of the race and settled for silver with a time of 8:53.34. Kenya's Faith Cherotich, on her Olympic debut, took bronze with a time of 8:55.15.

Reflections and future goals

Reflecting on her performance, Yavi revealed, "I just executed the plan that my coach and I had. I was surprised by the final time and the outcome."

Her dedication and preparation were evident as she crossed the finish line, leaving a significant mark on Bahrain's athletics landscape.

Looking ahead, Yavi expressed her ambitions for the future.

"My next goal is to set a new world record at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo 2025," she stated. "I'm returning to Bahrain on August 9th to prepare for the upcoming challenges."

The press conference, which followed her victory, celebrated her personal success and the broader impact on Bahrain's sports scene.

Yavi's gold medal and Olympic record are seen as monumental achievements for the country, creating a ripple effect that marks a defining milestone in Bahrain's athletic community.

Celebration

This victory marks the Arab world's second and the Gulf

Cooperation Council's (GCC) first gold medal in this prestigious



My next goal is to set a new world record at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo 2025

he congratulated the nation on its historic achievement. "This is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our athletes and the vision of our leadership."

He went on to express gratitude to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, and His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council For Youth and Sports, President of the General Sports Authority and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, for their unwavering support.

Sentiment

Echoing the sentiment of celebration, Faris Al Kooheji, Secretary General of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, added, "Congratulations to the Kingdom of Bahrain, His Majesty the King, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad, and His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad on this achievement."



TDT's exclusive interview with Yavi



event, sending ripples of pride and celebration across the nation..

"This is a moment of immense pride for Bahrain," declared His

Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Deputy President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee and Head of the Bahraini Delegation in the Paris Olympics, as

Bahraini sprinter Salwa blazes into 400m final to inch closer to gold

Hussain Al Maskati

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Bahrain sprinter Salwa Eid Naser delivered a brilliant performance, clocking a season-best time of 49.08 seconds

at the women's 400m semi-finals at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 yesterday evening.

Salwa's outstanding achievement is a testament to her hard work and resilience, making the entire Bahraini sports community proud. Her incredible performance is a significant moment for Bahraini athletics, demonstrating her elite status on the world stage and reinforcing her reputation as one of the top athletes in her field.

The semi-final was a display of global talent, with Irish runner Rhasidat Adeleke finishing just behind Naser with a time of 49.95 seconds, also advancing to the final. Norway's Henriette Jaeger and the Netherlands' Lieke Klaver followed with times of 50.17 and 50.44 seconds, respectively.

Great Britain's Victoria Ohuruogu and the United States' Aaliyah Butler, with times of 51.14 and 51.18 seconds, fell short

of the final.

Puerto Rico's Gabby Scott and Jamaica's Junelle Bromfield finished with times of 51.22 and 51.93 seconds, respectively.

Salwa's remarkable performance is more than just a victory; it is a moment of pride for Bahrain and a shining example of excellence in sports.

As the nation eagerly anticipates the final, Naser's achievement stands as a beacon of national pride.



Bahrain's Salwa Eid Naser leads the pack

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Praises for royal support pour in

HM King and HRH Prince Salman hailed over Bahrain's Olympic gold in Paris

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, received a flood of congratulations from senior government officials following Bahrain's gold medal win by Winfred Yavi in the women's 3,000m steeplechase at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

HM the King and HRH Prince Salman received cables of congratulations from the First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS), Chairman of the General Sports Authority (GSA), and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and His Highness Shaikh

kh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Chairman of the General Sports Authority, and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee.

HH Shaikh Khalid and HH Shaikh Khalid emphasised that this achievement is a result of His Majesty and HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's unwavering support of the Kingdom's sports sector.

The other congratulations came from Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Minister of Finance and National Economy, HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, His Excellency General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa,



HM the King



HRH Prince Salman

His Highness Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Vice-President of the Supreme Council for Environment, Deputy Chairman of the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) High Committee and Member of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sport, His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al

Khalifa, Special Representative of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, General Sports Authority (GSA) Vice President His Highness Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Advisor to HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, His Highness Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and His Highness Shaikh Isa

bin Abdullah. They also extended their congratulations to HH Shaikh Nasser and HH Shaikh Khalid. The victory, they emphasised, is a significant achievement for the Kingdom, reflecting HM King Hamad's unwavering support for the sports sector, which drives success in sports at various levels, and highlighting HRH Prince Salman's commitment to motivating athletes,

contributing to Bahrain's prominence in regional and international sporting events.

They noted the continued support of HH Shaikh Nasser and HH Shaikh Khalid in advancing Bahraini sports, including athletics, which enhances Bahrain's accomplishments in international competitions and elevates the Kingdom's profile in global sporting events.



His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa



His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa



HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa



HE General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa



His Highness Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa



His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa



His Highness Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa



Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam



Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh

Swift response to rainfall damage praised

Mohammed Darwish
TD | Manama

The swift action taken by administrative and executive teams in evaluating the damage from recent heavy rainfall has been widely recognised.

Dr Sayed Shubbar Al Wedai, Chairman of the North Municipal Council, expressed gratitude to His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for his focus on those impacted by the floods.

He acknowledged HRH Prince Salman's personal engagement, reflecting a deep concern for the welfare of the nation's people.

Al Wedai praised the Minister of Works, His Excellency Engineer Ibrahim bin Hassan Al Hawaj, Undersecretary Shaikh Engineer Mishaal bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, and the Ministry of Works' Rain Damage Assessment Team for their effective



Dr Sayed Shubbar Al Wedai

evaluation of the damage.

He noted that compensation for affected individuals is progressing, with the Ministry of Finance and National Economy managing payments in phases.

Some people are still finalising their paperwork, and final lists will be released after all submissions are reviewed.

Al Wedai also commended the Northern Municipal Council members for their careful oversight of affected families and



Mohammed Almuqahwi

their cooperation with the Damage Assessment Committee.

He recognised the staff's diligent work in data collection and list preparation.

The deadline for submitting claims in the northern region was 15 May 2024.

Out of 678 claims, 502 were complete, 39 were incomplete, and 137 did not meet the necessary criteria.

Some claims were invalid as they related to rainwater leak-

age through windows and roofs, not the rainfall itself.

In Muharraq, Municipal Council member Mohammed Almuqahwi reported that the Ministry of Works has started compensating affected residents through its projects, with payments already made to those in Al-Hidd, as previously announced.

Almuqahwi emphasised the need to integrate areas needing rehabilitation into the Ministry of Works' future plans.

He highlighted the importance of improving rainwater drainage infrastructure to protect the progress made and ensure the safety and comfort of both citizens and residents of Al-Hidd.

He concluded by reiterating thanks to HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa for his direct involvement and genuine concern for the nation's people.

August comes alive with thrilling events across Bahrain

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A vibrant lineup of events is set to enliven August, as revealed by The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA).

Dilmunia Water Park will open its gates daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., offering a thrilling summer experience with an array of water attractions, including high-speed rides, slides, and captivating live shows.

The Four Seasons Hotel invites guests to savour a range of delectable meals and desserts, perfect for enjoying with loved ones, available daily from 12 p.m.

Palavra Resort on Reef Island promises a unique experience with a mix of diverse dishes and drinks paired with live music. Guests will

also enjoy free access to the swimming pool and children's area.

Creativity

Every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Al Riwaq Art Space welcomes children aged 6 to 12 to explore their creativity through painting and crafts, using a variety of tools and techniques.

Dragon City Bahrain is gearing up for the new school year with exciting offers on school supplies, arts and crafts, and face painting, available from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Vida Beach Resort will host a fun day of activities and live music on August 9, starting at 2 p.m., and will wrap up the month with a beachside evening on August 30 at 2 p.m., featuring a performance by 'Special K'.

Sadad junction gets traffic tune-up for public safety

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Road safety in Sadad is set for improvement, as announced by Northern Area Council Member Zainab Al-Durazi.

She mentioned that the Ministry of Works' decision to reorganise the junction at Avenue 36, which separates Sadad town Block 1038 from Malkiya block 1034, aims to improve traffic conditions.

Al-Durazi explained that an initial study for installing a traffic light at this location revealed

conflicts with underground utilities.

Consequently, a team of specialists from the Ministry of Works, along with the council member, visited the site to explore possible alternatives.

Based on the study's findings, it was decided to reorganise the junction by prohibiting left turns from Road 3871 and relocating a speed bump to increase the intersection's capacity and ensure road safety.

These changes will be implemented by temporarily placing concrete barriers, during

which the junction will be monitored periodically before finalising a permanent solution.

Al-Durazi cited several reasons for the decision: the road extension over 1,300 metres from the Malkiya roundabout to Roundabout 13, increased construction and commercial activities on both sides of the road, frequent pedestrian crossings at the same location, and long waiting times for those coming from the east to turn south due to the high volume of vehicles coming from the west.

Additionally, the non-compliance of some drivers with traffic signs prohibiting U-turns from this direction poses a considerable danger and increases the rate of traffic accidents.

Al-Durazi confirmed that these measures would improve the junction's capacity and ensure road safety, expressing gratitude to the Ministry of Works and its employees for their efforts to address this issue and provide appropriate solutions and services for the citizens and residents of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Wave of new services for Salman City underway

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Salman City is gearing up for a wave of new service projects aimed at catering to its residents.

Basim Abu Idris, a member of the North Area Municipal Council, revealed that these efforts have been under the close watch of the Cabinet, with the Municipal Council actively following up with the Ministry of Housing and the Eskan Bank over the past two years. Abu Idris outlined that Eskan Bank's plans will roll out

in two stages. The first stage to start by the end of October next year, with the second stage coming in late 2025.

The first phase includes the construction of 10 commercial shops on Road 8307 in Block 583, behind AlZahraa Mosque, and another 5 shops in Block 580, centrally located on Salman City's coast, featuring a seaside view with an X-shaped layout.

By late 2025, a public market will be in the works. It will offer 1600 square metres of rental space.

Change of heart

Former municipal council Al Mutawa drops out of Muharraq by-election contest

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Mohammed Al Mutawa, a former municipal council, has made a surprising U-turn, announcing his decision not to run in the upcoming by-election for the first constituency, scheduled for September 7th.

The Muharraq's first district seat became vacant recently.

Al Mutawa, who had initially declared his intention to run, visited businessman Ibrahim Al Shaikh's weekly Majlis, where he revealed his change of heart.

He stated that the election is already decided in favour of a specific candidate, though he declined to name the individual.

Before leaving Al Shaikh's Majlis, Al Mutawa commented, "I have not missed any elections since the launch of His Majesty the King's reform project and the start of elections for the Council of Represent-



“Despite significant activity in the constituency following the vacancy, this election is decided. Everyone should read between the lines to understand who I am referring to

MOHAMMED AL MUTAWA, FORMER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

atives and Municipal Council in 2002. However, today, I announce that I have no intention of running in the by-election for the constituency I previously represented.”

Al Mutawa emphasised that the by-election in the vacant constituency is already decided, although he did not reveal the name of the candidate he believes will win.

He said, “Despite significant activity in the constituency following the vacancy, this election is decided. Everyone should read between the lines to understand who I am referring to.”

Regarding the timing of his announcement, Al Mutawa clarified that this decision was not previously disclosed.

He assured that he will continue to visit Al Shaikh's Ma-

jalis in the coming weeks and will be present at his campaign headquarters when he announces his candidacy for the by-election.

The by-election was triggered by the Court of Cassation's decision to revoke the membership of former MP Mohammed Al Hussaini due to his holding of dual citizenship, a violation of Bahraini electoral laws.

Intention

The Court of Cassation's ruling has sparked a wave of activity, with several candidates already expressing their intention to run.

Among the declared candidates are prominent figures like Dr Essam Al Alawi, businessman Ibrahim Al Shaikh, Khalid Sulaibeekh, Saleh Al Sada, Khawla Al Busmait, Nada bin Shams, Abdullah Al Sehli, Ahmed Al Tamimi, and Shaikh Mohammed Al Qallaf.

Vapor trail to addiction

E-cigarette used as a trap: 15-year-old falls victim to illegal substance



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A disturbing case has come to light in Bahrain, highlighting the dangers of e-cigarettes being used as a tool to lure unsuspecting victims into drug addiction.

A 15-year-old boy became a victim after being pressured to use an e-cigarette laced with drugs.

The boy's mother noticed his erratic behaviour and incoherent speech, prompting her to take him to Salmaniya Hospital.

There, it was discovered that he had consumed narcotics. She subsequently filed a complaint against a 30-year-old suspect who allegedly coerced her son into drug use.

The case is now before the courts.

The High Criminal Court has scheduled a hearing for 12th August to review the case.

The defendant has denied providing and delivering “manufactured hashish” to a minor, encouraging and facilitating his drug use without compensation.

He also denied the charge of endangering the child through acts related to immorality and drugs.

Confused state

The mother's testimony reveals that she witnessed her son in a confused state and suspected drug use.

She took him to Salmaniya Hospital for treatment, where he claimed he had been in a car with the defendant and three other individuals who forced him to use an e-cigarette containing “CBD.”

They also gave him “Larika,” hashish, and “shabu.” The mother, however, remained sceptical, knowing that her son had a history of occasional drug use.

She explained that she believed the defendant had facilitated and encouraged her son's drug use, leading him astray.

After the incident, she searched her son's phone without his knowledge and discovered a video showing the defendant putting a drug into the e-cigarette, which her son had filmed.

She also found a conversation between the defendant and her son on Snapchat, where he asked if he wanted to smoke hashish.

The Public Prosecution stated that the 15-year-old boy admitted in investigations that he began using drugs due to the defendant.

In early 2024, the boy encountered the defendant in the area, who introduced himself and offered him his e-cigarette.

Upon trying it, the boy realised it contained a narcotic substance.

Relationship

From that point, the boy's relationship with the defendant grew closer, and he began using drugs with him regularly on the fourth floor.

The boy revealed that the defendant provided them with the e-cigarette for drug use and invited him to his home, where he introduced him to “shabu” and they used it together.

On the day his mother discovered the situation, the boy was heavily under the influence of “shabu.”

The video presented by the mother shows the defendant holding the e-cigarette and using a needle to inject a liquid substance into the device.

Footage

The boy confirmed that he filmed the footage and that the defendant was adding the narcotic “CBD” to the e-cigarette, which they then used.

A urine sample from the boy tested positive for methamphetamine, manufactured hashish, and pregabalin.

The defendant's criminal record also revealed a previous conviction for drug use.

Victim drops charges in room snoring dispute

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A case involving a workplace dispute over snoring has taken an unexpected turn, with the victim dropping his charges against his roommate.

However, the Court scheduled a new hearing for August 12th, 2024, to announce its verdict.

The incident occurred in February 2024, when the victim reported that his roommate's loud

snoring was disrupting his sleep. He confronted the roommate, re-



questing him to lower his noise level or seek medical attention.

The roommate became enraged and punched the victim in the face, causing him to lose some of his teeth.

The Public Prosecutor's office

confirmed that the roommate admitted to punching the victim during the investigation.

A medical report confirmed that the victim's injuries were consistent with being struck by a hard object, resulting in a permanent disability of 2%.

The Public Prosecutor charged the roommate with assault causing permanent disability. However, the victim decided to drop the charges.

Former employee guilty of theft and forgery

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A former employee of a Bahraini company has been found guilty of stealing a company vehicle and forging transfer documents to sell it to another company.

The case is scheduled for sentencing on August 26th.

The 43-year-old defendant, who previously worked as a plumber for the company, was entrusted with the vehicle for work purposes.

When the company closed down in 2021, the owner requested the vehicle back, but the defendant refused to return it.

Lawyer

In January 2024, the company



owner hired a lawyer to pursue the matter.

The lawyer discovered that the vehicle had been transferred to another company.

Upon further investigation, it was revealed that the defendant had forged the transfer document, including the signature

and company stamp, and presented it to a vehicle registration department employee.

Good faith

The employee, in good faith, accepted the forged document and processed the transfer.

However, a forensic expert

confirmed that the defendant had forged the document and signature.

The Public Prosecution charged the defendant with theft, using a forged official document, and conspiracy to commit forgery.

Evidence

The defendant denied the charges, but the Public Prosecution presented evidence from the company owner, the forensic expert, and the vehicle registration department employee, proving his guilt.

The Public Prosecution argued for the defendant to be sentenced for his crimes, while the court has scheduled the sentencing hearing for August 26th.

Asian man charged with selling undersized fish

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The Public Prosecution has concluded its investigation into the case of an Asian national selling undersized fish in Bahrain and has ordered his referral to the Lower Criminal Court.

The incident came to light when the Directorate of Fishing Ports at the Supreme Council for Environment filed a report with the Public Prosecution.



Image used for illustrative purposes only

The report detailed the apprehension of the suspect, a street vendor, who was found in possession of six refrigerators

containing various marine creatures, including hamour fish, all of which were smaller than the legally permissible size.

Following the report, the Public Prosecution promptly initiated its investigation. The suspect was apprehended, interrogated, and subsequently placed in pre-trial detention. He will now face charges in the Lower Criminal Court.

Friend or fraud? WhatsApp scammers play on trust

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Unscrupulous fraudsters have found a new method to trick people into sending money illegally. It starts with a WhatsApp message that seems to come from a friend urgently requesting funds.

The message often tugs at the heartstrings, playing on the immediate urge to help.

Only later does the person realise they were communicating with a hacked phone.

These criminals prey off

people's instincts to assist friends and family in times of need, knowing that a plea for help can easily bypass rational scrutiny.

The tactics are becoming increasingly sophisticated, making it harder for individuals to discern the authenticity of such messages.

The General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security has advised individuals to confirm the identity of their friends before sending money.

Spreading its wings

Bahrain joins growing global push to save Gyrfalcons and address illegal hunting

● Rare bird now heralded as a cultural emblem between Bahrain and Russia

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama



The gyrfalcon is now a shared cultural symbol uniting Bahrain and Russia

Gyrfalcon conservation has gained traction recently, with Bahrain joining the international effort as the seventh country to back this cause, alongside Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and the United Arab Emirates.

This shift follows a joint announcement from Bahrain and Russia last year, which detailed their plans to protect the gyrfalcon – referred to as “krechet” in Russia – a bird symbolising strength and freedom. The gyrfalcon has emerged as a shared cultural emblem between Bahrain and Russia.

The initiative, known as the “Kremlin Falcons Initiative,” was launched by a coalition including the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Russian Institute for Environmental Research, and the Roscongress Foundation.

The goal is to address illegal hunting and implement conservation measures for this rare bird species, while encouraging international cooperation and sharing best practices among the involved nations.

On 3rd September 2024, Russia will host the second International Falcon Day during the Eastern Economic Forum.

Cultural exhibition

This event will feature the debut of “The Arab Village,” a cultural exhibition organised by the Roscongress Foundation, which will display the traditions of Arab countries and their cultural connections with Russia.

The accompanying business programme will focus on effective conservation practices, international breeding and rehabilitation efforts, and the role of private investment in protecting rare species.

This partnership seeks to protect the cultural heritage linked to falconry and preserve the biodiversity of unique species for future generations.

The dialogue between the participating countries is grounded in mutual respect and an appreciation of diverse civilisations and values, aiming to benefit humanity as a whole.

Hunting prowess

Russian falcons are renowned for their hunting prowess, including swift reflexes and endurance, and their exceptional genetics make them valuable for breeding. However, threats such as climate change and habitat loss are intensifying.

The illegal bird trade is a major concern, with the gyrfalcon population in Russia declining by a third over the past twenty years due to poaching.

As a result, the gyrfalcon, along with other birds of prey, is listed in the Red Book, making smuggling a criminal offence.

Given their migration routes through countries including Romania, Libya, Turkey, Greece,

and Serbia, it is crucial for regulatory authorities across these regions to monitor and control the trade of rare species, including on online and social media platforms.

International dialogue

Establishing international dialogue to tackle the illegal market is becoming increasingly essential.

Research published in Biological Conservation reveals that since 1975, over 60% of the global trade in daytime raptors listed in CITES has involved four species: hybrid falcons (26.8%), gyrfalcons (16.2%), hawks (11.5%), and falcons (7.1%), all highly sought

after by the falconry community.

In this context, the Arab side has shown a strong resolve to protect endangered raptors and support breeding and rehabilitation programmes for gyrfalcons.

This international cooperation is set to enhance conservation efforts, with Bahrain and Russia working together based on mutual respect and collaboration to advance biodiversity conservation and environmental policy.

Global industry

Russia has indicated that falconry has evolved into a global industry that drives economic growth in many countries, boosts purchasing power, and stimulates demand for sports tourism related to falconry’s heritage.

These factors motivate intensified conservation efforts for gyrfalcons, deeper partnerships with countries like Bahrain, and the development of joint projects to study bird populations, understand habitat sustainability, and support breeding initiatives.

The hope is that finalising key aspects of the framework declaration for gyrfalcon conservation and implementing international projects will help restore and preserve these shared traditions.



Bahrain Cinema Company B.S.C.



Condensed consolidated interim financial information for six months period ended 30 June 2024

Condensed consolidated interim statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the quarter and six months period ended 30 June 2024

	(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)			
	Quarter ended 30 June 2024 (Reviewed)	Quarter ended 30 June 2023 (Reviewed)	Six months ended 30 June 2024 (Reviewed)	Six months ended 30 June 2023 (Reviewed)
Operating income	1,231,471	1,435,429	2,118,357	2,675,506
Operating costs	(1,192,532)	(1,368,603)	(2,163,414)	(2,586,167)
Operating gross profit/(loss) for the period	38,939	66,826	(45,057)	89,339
Income from investments, net	497,041	1,027,583	925,721	1,419,325
Other income	72,471	85,122	139,835	191,285
	569,512	1,112,705	1,065,556	1,610,590
General and administrative expenses	(317,578)	(444,591)	(637,407)	(805,415)
Finance costs	(33,499)	(73,036)	(58,623)	(130,353)
	(351,077)	(517,627)	(696,030)	(935,768)
Net profit and other comprehensive income for the period	257,374	661,904	324,469	764,161
Basic earnings per share	3filis	8filis	4filis	10filis

Condensed consolidated interim statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024

	(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)	
	30 June 2024 (Reviewed)	31 December 2023 (Audited)
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	2,057,371	2,367,563
Investment properties	23,056,200	23,055,000
Right-of-use assets	1,173,614	1,331,957
Investment in an associate	10,061,033	10,103,983
Financial assets at amortized cost	14,017,585	14,000,624
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	10,230,806	9,992,857
	60,596,609	60,851,994
Current assets		
Inventories	110,741	123,047
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	9,240,580	9,328,532
Trade and other receivables	1,636,148	1,615,220
Cash and bank balances	219,076	308,980
	11,206,545	11,375,779
Total assets	71,803,154	72,227,773
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Capital and reserves		
Share capital	8,262,345	8,262,345
Share premium	865,355	893,923
Revaluation reserve	4,557,442	4,557,442
Statutory reserve	4,131,173	4,131,173
Charity reserve	248,556	275,766
Retained earnings	37,946,176	38,803,877
Treasury shares	(404,837)	(380,666)
	55,606,210	56,543,860
Non-current liabilities		
Non-current portion of term loan	6,608,675	6,568,986
Non-current portion of lease liabilities	856,149	1,181,254
Employees’ terminal and other benefits	369,829	425,362
	8,024,653	8,165,602
Current liabilities		
Murabaha facility	4,978,367	4,978,367
Current portion of term loan	257,073	339,573
Current portion of lease liabilities	506,132	415,409
Trade and other payables	1,809,885	1,784,962
Bank overdrafts	616,834	-
	8,172,291	7,518,311
Total equity and liabilities	71,803,154	72,227,773

Condensed consolidated interim statement of cash flows for the quarter and six months period ended 30 June 2024

	(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)	
	Six months period ended 30 June 2024 (Reviewed)	Six months period ended 30 June 2023 (Reviewed)
Operating activities		
Net profit for the period	324,469	764,161
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	281,791	411,342
Amortisation of cost to right-of-use assets	317,667	487,543
Profit on a sale of property, plant and equipment	(6,095)	-
Loss on closure of business - Seef I	40,038	-
Net share of loss from investment in an associate	42,950	(38,494)
Dividend income	(417,638)	(559,973)
Unrealised gains on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(149,564)	(431,282)
Interest income from sukuk and bonds	(384,508)	(373,742)
Interest income - discount amortisation	(16,961)	(15,834)
Interest income on long term receivables	-	(70,926)
Interest income on loan to a related party	(35,213)	(40,373)
Finance costs	58,623	130,353
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Inventories	12,306	(11,091)
Trade and other receivables	(20,928)	(711,314)
Employees terminal benefits	(55,533)	35,682
Trade and other payables	24,923	189,528
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	14,327	(234,420)
Investing activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(11,642)	(38,168)
Additions to investment properties	(1,200)	(13,572)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	8,100	-
Interest income on long term receivable	-	70,926
Interest income on loan to a related party	35,213	40,373
Purchase of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(433)	-
Proceeds from sale of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	-	5,655
Interest income from bonds and sukuk	384,508	373,742
Dividend income received	417,638	559,973
Net cash provided by investing activities	832,184	998,929
Financing activities		
Amount repaid against Murabaha facility	-	(199,645)
Lease liabilities paid	(291,696)	(478,517)
Term loan obtained	57,189	67,073
Charity paid	(27,210)	(60,000)
Treasury shares purchased	(52,739)	-
Dividends paid	(1,182,170)	(1,183,623)
Finance costs paid	(58,623)	(130,353)
Net cash used in financing activities	(1,555,249)	(1,985,065)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(708,738)	(1,220,556)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of the period	308,980	(683,133)
Cash and cash equivalents, end of the period	(399,758)	(1,903,689)
Comprising:		
Cash and bank balances	219,076	224,126
Bank overdrafts	(618,834)	(2,127,815)
	(399,758)	(1,903,689)

Condensed consolidated interim statement of changes in shareholders’ equity for the six months period ended 30 June 2024

	(Reviewed) (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)							
	Share capital	Share premium	Revaluation reserve	Statutory reserve	Charity reserve	Retained earnings	Treasury shares	Total
At 31 December 2022 – Audited	8,262,345	911,442	4,557,442	4,131,173	312,007	41,902,340	(370,975)	59,705,774
Dividend paid for the year 2022	-	-	-	-	-	(1,183,623)	-	(1,183,623)
Charity paid	-	-	-	-	(60,000)	-	-	(60,000)
Net profit and other comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	-	-	764,161	-	764,161
At 30 June 2023 – reviewed	8,262,345	911,442	4,557,442	4,131,173	252,007	41,482,878	(370,975)	59,226,312
At 31 December 2023 – Audited	8,262,345	893,923	4,557,442	4,131,173	275,766	38,803,877	(380,666)	56,543,860
Dividend paid for the year 2023	-	-	-	-	-	(1,182,170)	-	(1,182,170)
Charity paid	-	-	-	-	(27,210)	-	-	(27,210)
Purchase of treasury shares	-	(28,568)	-	-	-	-	(24,171)	(52,739)
Net profit and other comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	-	-	324,469	-	324,469
At 30 June 2024 – reviewed	8,262,345	865,355	4,557,442	4,131,173	248,556	37,946,176	(404,837)	55,606,210

Al Baraka Group posts Q1, H1 profits

The group achieves growth in total assets to US\$ 25.45 Billion

TDI | Manama

Al Baraka Group has announced its financial results for the second quarter and first half of 2024, reporting profits.

Quarterly results

The Group announced US\$ 40 million of net income attributable to shareholders for Q2 2024, compared to US\$ 47 m in the second quarter of 2023, reflecting a 16% reduction.

Earnings per share stood at US\$ 1.84 cents for Q2 2024, compared to US\$ 2.46 cents for the second quarter of last year. This slight decrease is primarily due to the reduced profitability in the Group's larger subsidiaries shareholdings, which saw sharply rising funding costs despite increased profits from financing and investments; the negative



Housseem Ben Haj Amor, Board Executive Member and Group Chief Executive Officer



Shaikh Abdullah Saleh Kamel, Chairman of Al Baraka Group's Board of Director

foreign currency translation effect is another factor that contributed to the decline.

However, the Group announced a significant rise in

total comprehensive income attributable to shareholders, which increased to US\$ 36 m at the end of Q2 2024, recording a 652% jump compared to US\$ 5

m for the same period last year. This is mainly due to the reduction in the negative reserve from foreign currency conversions compared to the second quarter of 2023.

H1 results

Meanwhile, ABG achieved US\$ 79 m in net income attributable to shareholders for the first half of 2024, demonstrating its resilience in the face of ongoing challenges. This was an 11% decrease from the US\$ 89 m for the same period last year, attributed to the increasing funding costs and the negative impact of local currencies devaluation against the US dollar, in spite of the growth in financing and investment income. Earnings per share was 5.07 cents, compared to 5.87 cents for the same period in 2023. Total comprehensive

income attributable to shareholders recorded a loss of US\$ 24 m compared to a loss of US\$ 20 m in the same period last year. This 17% increase was primarily due to the devaluation of the local currencies in Turkey and Egypt.

Despite these challenges, Al Baraka Group's total assets witnessed a growth of 1% to reach US\$ 25.45 billion at the end of Q2 2024, compared to US\$ 25.26 billion for the same period last year.

Shaikh Abdullah Saleh Kamel, Chairman of Al Baraka Group's Board of Directors said, "We have demonstrated stable and resilient financial performance in the first half of this year, despite the wave of inflation that the global economy is experiencing and the rise in business costs, and despite the geopolitical challenges and economic

setbacks witnessed by some of the financial markets in which we operate."

Housseem Ben Haj Amor, Board Executive Member and Group Chief Executive Officer commented, "While we record a slight decrease in our profits for the first half of this year compared to last year, we are confident that we will achieve a better financial performance during the second half of the year despite the anticipated challenges in our main markets, including the high cost of funding and the decline of some local currencies against the US dollar. We shall remain ready to face any challenges and seize all investment and innovation opportunities that might contribute to the growth of our various Units and raise the Group's profitability in a sustainable manner."

Alba and Daiki Aluminium to establish Sustainable Aluminium Dross Processing Plant in Bahrain



Aluminium Bahrain and Daiki Aluminium Industry Company officials following the deal signing

TDI | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), the world's largest single-site smelter, and Japan's leading aluminium product manufacturer, Daiki Aluminium Industry Company Ltd, announced yesterday a strategic partnership to establish a sustainable aluminium dross processing business in the Kingdom

of Bahrain.

Held at Alba premises, the MoU's signing ceremony was attended by Alba's CEO Ali Al Baqali, Acting Chief Marketing Officer Hisham Al Kooheji, and Alba's Executive Management Team. Daiki Aluminium Industry Company Ltd.'s Chairman and Representative Director Yamamoto Takaaki, Director and Senior Managing Execu-

tive Officer Goto Kazushi, and Vice General Manager, Overseas Business Coordination Department Fukushima Toshitake were also present.

This collaboration not only reinforces the thriving Bahrain-Japan economic partnership but also paves the way for innovative advancements in sustainable aluminium production. Central to this partnership is a shared

commitment to circular economy principles. The aluminium dross processing facility will employ state-of-the-art technology to recover valuable aluminium metal while significantly reduce waste, thereby contributing to Bahrain's sustainability goals.

Alba's Chief Executive Officer, Ali Al Baqali, emphasised the transformative nature of this

partnership and stated: "This collaboration underscores our dedication to creating lasting value for our stakeholders while advancing the circular economy. This joint venture will serve as a model for sustainable aluminium production, demonstrating the power of collaboration to drive positive change."

Adding further, Daiki Al-

uminium Industry Company Ltd.'s Chairman and Representative Director Yamamoto Takaaki said: "Since our founding in 1922, we have focused on the aluminum recycling business for more than 100 years. And through the products, technologies, and services of both companies, we will contribute to the realization of sustainability."

Gear up for school in style: Splash launches Back to School 2024 collection

TDI | Manama

As the countdown to a new school year begins, Splash, the Middle East's favorite fashion retailer, unveiled its Back-to-School Collection for 2024.

Splash described the collection as a fusion of style, comfort, and functionality, designed to cater to the fashion needs of stylish teens as they are set to welcome another school year filled with activities, new learning and experiences.

A collection that promises to be the talk of the campus, the edit focuses on incorporating all the styles required to create a versatile wardrobe that will last all year—from basics, athleisure wear, occasion wear, denim, formal shirts to even intimate wear and sleepwear.

The collection for girls features essential wardrobe staples



such as crew neck tees and basic shirts in classic monochromes, pastels and solid colors. These versatile pieces are perfect for layering or wearing solo, ensuring students look polished and stylish. Complementing these

are black leggings and basic skirts that combine comfort with a trendy aesthetic. The denim collection offers a variety of styles, including 90's wide-leg jeans, kick flare, and ultra-wide options, ensuring students stay

on-trend. The collection also includes character tees and sets that add a playful touch to any outfits to seasonal must-haves like rib knit tops and tank tops. The smart collection includes elegantly tailored black trousers,

pleated skirts, and printed shirts perfect for creating a sophisticated school look.

For the fashion-forward boys, Splash offers a collection that is both timeless and contemporary—starting with the

basics: classic crew neck and V-neck tees in black and white, paired with solid linen shirts for a crisp, clean appearance to denim range that is versatile. Featuring straight-fit, tapered, and wide-leg jeans-- the denim drop ensures a fit for every style preference. Layer up with stylish outerwear pieces designed to keep you warm and looking sharp.

Accessories are not an afterthought in this collection. Branded backpacks from Lee Cooper, Kappa, and Starter are as durable as they are stylish and perfect for carrying books and gadgets. With caps, essential socks and hair accessories—the collection rounds off all Back-to-School essentials in one place.

Mark your calendars! The Splash Back to School Collection will hit stores and be available online.

CELEBS celebs



Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds

Blake Lively hails Ryan Reynolds' 'user-friendly' filmography

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Blake Lively thinks Ryan Reynolds' filmography is "much more user-friendly" than her own.

The 36-year-old actress has four children - daughters James, nine, Inez, seven, and Betty, four, as well as son Olin with the Hollywood star - and Blake believes that Ryan's filmography is much more child-friendly.

The blonde beauty - who has been married to Ryan since 2012 -

told E! News: "Honestly, 'Savages', not a movie for my children to see. 'The Town' - not on the top list, I'd have to say. You know it's a rough one, my filmography."

By contrast, Blake suggested that Ryan's career has featured more family-friendly movies.

The actress quipped: "My husband's filmography is much more user-friendly. Yeah, mommy's movies are not."

Meanwhile, Blake recently launched a new beauty brand and the movie star admitted that she

wants the company to "stand for itself".

The actress launched a new haircare brand called Blake Brown, and Blake explained why she decided to use her dad's name for the company, rather than her own.

She told Harper's Bazaar: "Brown is my dad's [last] name. My dad took Lively from my mom. I just thought that was really cool."

Despite this, Blake revealed that the name Blake Brown ac-

tually appears on her birth certificate.

She said: "I've only ever been called Blake Lively, but Blake Brown was on my birth certificate and it would show up in legal documents."

"It was always an identity that I never fully stepped into and it was the most intimate identity and people don't really know anything about it."

Blake ultimately hopes that her beauty brand will "earn people's respect".

Taylor Swift leads MTV VMA nominees

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Taylor Swift leads the list of nominees for the MTV Video Music Awards (VMAs).

The 34-year-old singer - who won seven VMAs in 2023 - has received ten nominations in total, including eight for 'Fortnight', her collaboration with Post Malone.

'Fortnight' is in contention for the Video of the Year accolade, which is considered



Taylor Swift

to be the most prestigious of all of the awards. Taylor has actually won the gong four times already, and she could soon extend her own record.

The chart-topping star released her latest album, 'The Tortured Poets Department', in April, while Taylor has also been travelling the world for her Eras Tour.

Taylor is contention for the Artist of the Year gong, too,

although she'll face stiff competition from Ariana Grande, Bad Bunny, Eminem, Sabrina Carpenter and SZA.

Elsewhere, Post Malone has received as many as nine nominations, including nods in the Video of the Year, Song of the Year, and Best Collaboration categories.

Ariana Grande, Sabrina Carpenter and Eminem have all earned six nominations each, while rap stars Megan Thee Stallion and SZA have both received five nominations.

This year's list actually features as many as 29 first-time nominees, which includes the likes of Chappell Roan, Gracie Abrams, and Jelly Roll.

This year's list actually features as many as 29 first-time nominees, which includes the likes of Chappell Roan, Gracie Abrams, and Jelly Roll

Music fans are able to vote for their favorite artists via MTV.com until August 30.

However, voting for the Best New Artist gong - which is being contested by Benson Boone, Chappell Roan, Gracie Abrams, Shaboozey, Teddy Swims and Tyla - will remain open until September 10.

Cardi B feels 'so happy' after announcing her pregnancy

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Cardi B feels "so happy" after sharing her pregnancy news with the world.

The 31-year-old rap star - who already has Wave, two, and Kulture, six, with her estranged husband Offset - has admitted to feeling a sense of relief after revealing that she's pregnant with her third child.

Cardi - who recently filed a divorce from Offset after almost seven years of marriage - wrote on X: "I'm so happy y'all know I'm [pregnant emoji] now I can stop wearing those deum school girl skirts lmaoooooo [laughing emojis] (sic)"

Cardi recently announced her pregnancy via a post on social media.

The award-winning rap star - who mar-

ried Offset in 2017 - said on Instagram: "With every ending comes a new begin-ning! I am so grateful to have shared this season with you, you have brought me more love, more life and most of all renewed my power! Reminded me that I can have it all! You've reminded me that I never have to choose between life, love, and my passion! I love you so much and can not wait for you to witness what you helped me accomplish, what you pushed me to do! It's so much easier taking life's twists, turns and test laying down, but you, your brother and your sister have shown me why it's

worth it to push through! (sic)"

Prior to that, Cardi filed for a divorce from Offset.

A rep for the chart-topping star told PEOPLE: "It's not based on cheating rumors, but rather has been a long time com-ing."

Cardi subsequently took to social media to deny that she was seeking child support from her estranged husband.

She wrote on Instagram: "Even wit my filling I'm not askin for child support my claim is for him to only pay for the bills he already pays on the kids and the new one (sic)"



Cardi B

Megan Fox and Machine Gun Kelly 'discussed having a baby'

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Megan Fox and Machine Gun Kelly "have discussed having a baby".

The 38-year-old actress recently wore a baby bump in her partner's 'Lonely Road' music video, and having children is something that the loved-up couple have already discussed.

An insider told Us Weekly: "Although they have discussed having a baby, this was just for MGK's music video."

In the music video, Kelly is seen kissing and cradling Megan's baby bump, which led to

speculation that Megan is already pregnant.

The actress - who has Noah, 11, Journey, 10, and Bodhi, seven, with her ex-husband Brian Austin Green - and Kelly - who has daughter Casie, 14, with Emma Cannon - both remained tight-lipped amid the speculation.

Megan and Kelly went public with their romance in 2020, and they've been through lots of ups and downs together since then.

Earlier this year, a source explained that the celebrity duo were "trying to work through their issues".

My face was everywhere in 2023, says Jenna Ortega

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Jenna Ortega "got sick" of seeing herself "everywhere" in 2023.

The 21-year-old actress enjoyed a meteoric rise on the back of the success of 'Wednesday', the hit Netflix series, and Jenna can understand why the public might've become sick of seeing her face.

The Hollywood star told Vanity Fair magazine: "My face was everywhere ... so it's like, fair enough, if I were opening my phone and Jenna Ortega

I saw the same girl with some stupid quote or something, I would be over it too."

Despite this, Jenna believes that actresses are judged more harshly than their male counterparts.

The 'Beetlejuice Beetlejuice' star said: "I feel like we definitely need to practice what we preach a little bit more ... Women have to be princesses. They have to be elegant and classy and so kind and ...then when they're outspoken, they can't be tamed and they're a mess."

Meanwhile, Michael Keaton - Jenna's 'Beetlejuice Beetlejuice' co-star - recently heaped praise on the actress, describing her as a "really special" talent.



SUDOKU

3	9							5
			3					1 6
		8		9 4				
			4 6					
1 9								4 7
				5 7				
			5 7		2			
6 2				3				
8					3			1

Yesterday's solution

9	5	2	6	4	8	7	3	1
6	8	4	1	7	3	5	9	2
3	7	1	2	5	9	8	6	4
2	6	7	9	8	4	1	5	3
8	1	5	7	3	2	6	4	9
4	9	3	5	1	6	2	8	7
7	4	9	8	2	5	3	1	6
1	3	8	4	6	7	9	2	5
5	2	6	3	9	1	4	7	8

How to play
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78
79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104

Across
1- Give it _ _; 6- Actress Thurman; 9- Numbers game; 14- Stiller's partner; 15- Doze; 16- On _-to-know basis; 17- Convert into a fossil; 19- Island in the Bay of Naples; 20- Colo. clock setting; 21- Roman road; 22- Marketing connection; 23- Thick cord; 25- Apple centers; 26- Out, in bed; 29- Farrow and Hamm; 31- Frost's field; 32- Went in; 36- Europe's highest volcano; 37- ICU workers; 38- Suffix with buck; 40- Not blind; 43- Occupied by a metropolis; 45- Egyptian cobras; 46- In _ (sort of); 47- Skin of the upper part of the head; 50- Memorable times; 51- Sash; 52- Grime; 54- Thrive, in prescriptions; 57- Shaft shot from a bow; 58- Fellow student; 61- Capital of Yemen; 62- CIA predecessor; 63- Components; 64- Abrasive mineral; 65- Not for a Scot; 66- Personal quality of material belonging.

Down
1- Kind of radio; 2- Classic cars; 3- Bridge seat; 4- SAT takers; 5- Mai _; 6- Band together; 7- Labyrinth; 8- Copycat; 9- Milk sugar; 10- Studio sign; 11- Conical shelter; 12- Garr and Hatcher; 13- Sleipnir's rider; 18- Impudent (slang); 23- Label anew; 24- _ the fields we go...; 25- Siamese, calico, or tabby; 26- Gibbon, e.g.; 27- Drunkards; 28- Director Riefenstahl; 29- Fixes; 30- _ and outs; 33- Gives a 9.8, say; 34- _ Brockovich; 35- Female rabbits; 37- Agent, briefly; 39- Keats piece; 41- To midpoint; 42- Recipe amt.; 43- Wagons; 44- This _ test...; 47- Beat it!; 48- Chili con _; 49- Bellowing; 50- Wipe out; 51- Manuscript enc.; 52- Pest control brand; 53- "Casablanca" role; 54- Sailors; 55- Novel ending; 56- Take five; 59- Hot tub; 60- Barker and Bell.

Yesterday's solution

T	R	E	E	T	R	I	O	T	A	E	L			
H	U	L	A	S	E	A	R	P	A	T	R			
O	N	E	T	O	A	T	E	E	B	E	E			
R	T	E	C	O	M	A	R	E	L	I	C			
S	E	A	C	R	E	T	A	L	E	N	T			
S	E	A	W	E	E	I	T	A						
A	L	T	A	R		T	E	E	N	A	G	E	R	
N	E	A	R		M	I	D	A	S		R	U	N	E
D	A	T	E	L	E	S		D	E	C	C	A		
I	N	F	A	N	T		S	N	E	A	K	E	R	
I	N	F	A	N	T		L	E	S					
B	O	G	A	R	T		I	A	T	E		A	B	E
E	T	A	S		I	S	A	N		R	I	S	E	N
L	A	I	T		M	S	G	T		T	N	O	T	E
T	S	O	S		E	N	O	S		A	F	A	R	

Wellalage stars as Sri Lanka hammer India to clinch ODI series

Sri Lanka clinch first ODI series win over India in 27 years with historic performance

● India bowled out for 138, chasing 249

● Avishka Fernando scores 96 for Sri Lanka

AFP | Colombo

Spinner Dunith Wellalage took 5-27 as Sri Lanka clinched a first ODI series victory over India in 27 years with a 110-run thrashing of the tourists in the third match yesterday.

Chasing 249 for victory, number one-ranked India suffered a third successive batting collapse in the three-match series to be bowled out for 138 in 26.1 overs at Colombo's R. Premadasa Stadium.

Sri Lanka, who last registered a bi-lateral series triumph over India in the 50-over format in 1997, won the series 2-0 after the opener ended in a tie.



Sri Lanka's Jeffrey Vandersay (L) celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of India's Virat Kohli (R)

Skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli had returned for the ODI matches after Suryakumar Yadav led the team to a 3-0 series sweep in the T20 matches at the start of India's white-ball tour of Sri Lanka.

Both Rohit and Kohli retired from T20 internationals after the team's World Cup triumph in Barbados in June.

The tour was the first for India coach Gautam Gambhir, who took over the job after Rahul



Sri Lanka's last ODI series victory over India was in 1997. This win marks a significant milestone, ending a 27-year drought and showcasing Sri Lanka's resurgence in international cricket

David's tenure ended following the World Cup win.

Sri Lanka, ranked seventh in the ODI world ranking, have managed a quick turnaround from the T20 matches under new skipper Charith Asalanka and interim coach Sanath Jayasuriya.

Struggling Sri Lanka had

Scorecard

Sri Lanka 240 for 9 (Avishka 40, Kamindu 40, Washington 3-30, Kuldeep 2-33) beat **India 208** (Rohit 64, Axar 44, Vandersay 6-33, Asalanka 3-20) by 32 runs

failed to qualify for next year's Champions Trophy and were knocked out of the first round of the 2024 T20 World Cup.

The hosts batted first and reached 248-7 with opener Avishka Fernando, who hit 96, and Kusal Mendis, who made 59, setting the pace for the total.

In reply, Rohit made 35 before India fell like a pack of cards as Wellalage rattled the top- and middle-order with his left-arm spin.

Fast bowler Asitha Fernando struck first with the wicket of Shubman Gill before Wellalage took charge and sent back Rohit in just his second over.

He trapped Kohli lbw for 20 and then struck twice in one

over as India slipped to 82-6.

Previous-match hero Jeffrey Vandersay, who came in as replacement for injured Wanindu Hasaranga in the second ODI, took two to put India in further trouble at 101-8.

Spinner Maheesh Theekshana also took two wickets. Wellalage wrapped up the Indian innings to return career-best figures.

Fernando set up victory as he put on big partnerships, including an 89-run opening stand with Pathum Nissanka, who hit 45.

Indian bowlers hit back after Rryan Parag sent back Fernando, but Kusal stood firm from one end and boosted the total with his 59.

Parag, who returned figures of 3-54, also captured Asalanka's wicket for 10 as Sri Lanka slumped from 171-1 to 199-6.

Kusal and Kamindu Mendis, who made an unbeaten 23, put together 36 runs for the seventh wicket and Sri Lanka got 31 runs from the last three overs.

Serbia announces plans to build Djokovic museum

AFP | Belgrade

Following Novak Djokovic's dramatic gold medal victory at the Paris Olympics, Serbia is set to build a museum dedicated to the tennis great, according to the country's president.

"We had the first discussions about the construction of the Novak Djokovic museum, which is expected to become another attraction for the city," Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said Tuesday.

Djokovic has long enjoyed the status of a living legend in Serbia, where the Belgrade native and winner of 24 Grand Slam titles ran a tennis academy for years and frequently attends sporting events and meets with officials.

"Palma de Mallorca has a

museum dedicated to Rafael Nadal. We will strive to showcase what Djokovic has done for our country in accordance with his merits and at the same time attract tourists," Vucic added.

Vucic said he hoped the museum would be finished before Belgrade hosts the World Expo in 2027.

The announcement comes just days after Djokovic won a gold



medal at the Paris Games on Sunday after defeating Carlos Alcaraz 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/2) in what was likely to be his final shot at Olympic glory.

Victory allowed him to join Andre Agassi, Rafael Nadal, Steffi Graf and the watching Serena Williams as the only players to win all four Grand Slam tournaments and Olympic singles gold.

Djokovic also became the oldest singles champion since tennis returned to the Olympics in 1988 and shattered Alcaraz's bid to

Palma de Mallorca has a museum dedicated to Rafael Nadal. We will strive to showcase what Djokovic has done for our country in accordance with his merits and at the same time attract tourists

SERBIAN PRESIDENT ALEKSANDAR VUCIC

add gold to the French Open and Wimbledon titles he has already pocketed this summer.

Back in Serbia, people gathered in main squares across the country where they waved flags and sang patriotic songs to celebrate Djokovic's victory.

Real Madrid edges Chelsea while AC Milan wins on penalties



Real Madrid's Brahim Diaz kicks the ball past Chelsea's goalkeeper Filip Jorgensen and scores his team's second goal

AFP | Washington

Reigning Champions League and La Liga champion Real Madrid concluded a pre-season US tour on Tuesday with a 2-1 triumph over Chelsea while AC Milan won on penalties after playing Barcelona to a 2-2 draw.

There were 62,617 spectators at the home stadium of the NFL's Carolina Panthers in Charlotte, North Carolina to watch Vinicius Junior make his first start in the warm-up matches for Real Madrid's La Liga opener in 12 days.

Spanish midfielder Dani Ceballos knocked a right-footed shot into the bottom left corner in the 19th minute to give Real a 1-0 lead.

Brahim Diaz fired in a left-footed kick from a diffi-

cult angle in the 27th minute to double the Spanish side's lead, sliding the ball from the left just inside the backline and across the empty goal into the far right side.

English striker Noni Madueke answered in the 39th minute with a header from the right side of the six-yard box, but Chelsea could not manage an equalizer.

In the other club friendly match, AC Milan and Barcelona played to a 2-2 draw in Baltimore before the Italian side won 4-3 on penalties.

Luka Jovic scored in the 10th minute off an assist from Christian Pulisic, and Pulisic himself scoring from a difficult angle in the 15th minute from the left side into the top right corner to give the Italian side a 2-0 edge.

Nishikori advances with Montreal fightback, Raonic out

AFP | Montreal



Japan's Kei Nishikori staged a 3-6, 7-5, 6-4 fightback

over Alex Michelsen on Tuesday to earn his first victory at an ATP Masters match in three years.

The 2014 US Open runner-up Kei Nishikori

ner-up, who has been plagued in recent seasons by injury, turned the tide at the Montreal Masters as he put out the 55th-ranked American teenager who played last month's Newport grass final.

The tournament lost another big name Tuesday when Canadian Milos Raonic withdrew an hour before his opening match with a shoulder injury.

The US Open tuneup event is already

missing Olympic champion Novak Djokovic and silver medalist Carlos Alcaraz, who both withdrew.

Nishikori, aged 34 and ranked 576, earned a second-round match with eighth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, a former Grand Slam finalist like his Asian opponent.

"It has been a long time. This means a lot, especially the way I played in the third set," Nishikori said.

Andreescu beaten in Toronto opener, Wang to face Gauff

AFP | Toronto

Canada's Bianca Andreescu, the 2019 US Open champion, was ousted by Ukraine's Lesia Tsurenko on Tuesday in the first round of the WTA Toronto Masters.

Tsurenko, ranked 85th, rallied to defeat Andreescu 0-6, 6-3, 6-4



Bianca Andreescu

in just under two hours to book a second-round match against 10th seed Anna Kalinskaya.

There was some good news for Andreescu, who received a wildcard entry into next week's Cincinnati Masters.

Chinese qualifier Wang Yafan defeated American Sofia Kenin, the 2020 Australian Open win-

ner, 7-5, 7-6 (7/3).

Wang will face top seed and reigning US Open champion Coco Gauff in the second round.

Ukraine's Elina Svitolina, the 2017 Canadian champion, won the first nine games in ousting American Shelby Rogers 6-0, 6-2 in 70 minutes.

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Bahraini athlete Birhanu Balew finishes 10th in men's 5000m heats

TDI | Manama

In Heat 2 of the Men's 5000m Round 1 at the Paris 2024 Olympics, Bahrain's Birhanu Balew finished in 10th place with a time of 13:53.11.

While Balew's result did not qualify him for the next round, his performance was a notable effort in a competitive field.

Norway's Jakob Ingebrigtsen led the heat with a time of 13:51.59, followed closely by Ethiopia's Biniam Mehari (13:51.82). Belgium's Isaac Kimeli and the United States' Grant Fisher also secured positions within the top 5.

Notable performances included Uganda's Oscar Chelimo and Kenya's Ronald Kwemoi, who finished in the top 6. Ethiopia's Addisu Yihune also qualified for the next round. Spain's Adel Mechaal did not start the race.

Balew's time of 13:53.11 placed him just outside the qualifying positions. Despite not advancing, his effort contributed to Bahrain's presence in the event and reflects his competitive capabilities.

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Birhanu Balew

Spain clinch inaugural mixed race walk gold, Ingebrigtsen through

Alvaro Martin and Maria Perez triumph in historic mixed marathon race walk

Ingebrigtsen qualifies for 5,000m final after 1500m disappointment

Dramatic fall affects men's 5,000m semi-final

Barshim and Tamberi qualify for high jump final despite setbacks

AFP | Paris

Alvaro Martin and Maria Perez clinched Olympic gold for Spain in the inaugural marathon race walk mixed relay in Paris yesterday as Jakob Ingebrigtsen licked his wounds to qualify for the 5,000m final.

The mixed relay was making its Olympic debut to replace the 50km race walk. Martin



Jakob Ingebrigtsen

and Perez timed 2hr 50min 31sec for victory almost a minute ahead of silver medallists Ecuador, with Australia claiming bronze.

"This is amazing, this is history, not only for us but for Spanish race walking as well," said Martin.

Perez, having now won golds at the Olympics, world and European championships, said she felt "very special because that triple crown is the first time that has been achieved by a Spanish athlete, and I'm fortunate enough to have shared it with Alvaro."

After misjudging his pace in the opening two laps of the men's 1500m on Tuesday, Ingebrigtsen failed in the defence of his title when finishing fourth.

The Norwegian was back on the track yesterday in the 5,000m, however, an event in which he is a twice world champion, and he made no mistake in winning his semi-final in 13:51.59.

"I'm lucky because I get a second chance to show what I'm capable of. It's just about keeping the focus on this race and being smart when using my powers," Ingebrigtsen said.

"It's going to be an exciting fight."

Skittles, but Mills through

A dramatic first semi-final first saw Canada's reigning silver medallist Mohammed Ahmed fall and then four others go down with the line in sight after France's Hugo Hay pushed Britain's George Mills into traffic.

"We were all going down like skittles. It seemed crazy out there," said Mills, who exchanged angry words with the Frenchman after the race.

"I was tucked in on the inside on the last lap, which was where I wanted to be. I knew some sort of gap would open up in the straight. It did, and I was ready to put my foot down. Then



Spain's Maria Perez and Alvaro Martin pose after winning the mixed marathon race walk relay

all of a sudden, 'boom', down I went."

Mills and the three other fallers were retrospectively given qualification for Saturday's final.

That semi was won by Ingebrigtsen's teammate Narve Gilje Nordas, coached by Jakob's estranged father Gjert.

There was also drama in qualification for the men's high jump as Qatari Mutaz Essa Barshim seemingly suffered a left calf injury in a run-up to one of his efforts.

Barshim shared gold at the Tokyo Games with Italy's Gianmarco Tamberi, a decision

that caught the imagination of an expectant audience across the world, which was at the time ravaged by the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was Tamberi first on hand to tend to Barshim as he sat on the infield clutching his leg before receiving medical treatment.

Both jumpers qualified for Saturday's final, but health constraints might well limit their medal expectations.

Tamberi was pictured in hospital this week having cited a high temperature and kidney pain.

Algerian Djamel Sedjati, who

Standings

#	NOC	G	S	B	Total
1	United States	25	32	32	89
2	China	23	22	16	61
3	Australia	17	12	10	39
4	France*	13	16	19	48
5	Great Britain	12	16	20	48
6	Japan	12	6	12	30
7	South Korea	11	8	7	26
8	Italy	9	10	8	27
9	Netherlands	9	5	6	20
10	Germany	8	5	4	17
11	Canada	6	4	8	18
12	Ireland	4	0	3	7
13	New Zealand	3	6	1	10
14	Hungary	3	3	2	8
	Sweden	3	3	2	8
43	Bahrain	1	0	0	1



Maria Perez became the first Spanish athlete to achieve a "triple crown" by winning Olympic, World, and European golds

has Kenyan David Rudisha's 800m world record of 1:40.91 in his crosshairs, safely negotiated heats in the two-lap race.

In what promises to be one of the most competitive events in Paris, also going through were the likes of world champion Marco Arop of Canada, France's Gabriel Tual, Kenyan Emmanuel Wanyonyi and Italy's Catalin Tecuceanu.

India to appeal wrestler Phogat's Olympic disqualification

India's wrestling federation was yesterday appealing the disqualification of star athlete Vinesh Phogat at the Paris Olympics after she failed to make weight for the women's 50kg final.

World bronze medallist Phogat, 29, was in the public eye for months last year as part of a long-running protest against the then-chief of Indian wrestling when he was embroiled in a sexual harassment scandal.

She was due to face Sarah Hildebrandt of the United States for the gold medal but was found to be overweight for her category.

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) had filed an appeal with global governing body United World Wrestling to reconsider the decision to disqualify Phogat.



India's Vinesh Phogat (red) wrestles Cuba's Yusneylis Guzman Lopez (blue)

"Despite the best efforts by the team through the night, she weighed in a few grams over 50kg this morning," the IOA said in a statement.

IOA president P.T. Usha said Phogat's disqualification was

"very shocking", adding that the team was providing Phogat with "all medical and emotional support".

"I wish words could express the sense of despair that I am experiencing," Prime Minister

"I wish words could express the sense of despair that I am experiencing. Come back stronger! We are all rooting for you"

INDIAN PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

Narendra Modi said in a social media post.

"Come back stronger! We are all rooting for you."

"Vinesh you are a gold medallist of courage and morality," Bajrang Punia, a fellow leader of last year's protests, and a Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist, said on social media.

"You have fought with grit," he added. "Nobody wants to believe what happened this morning"

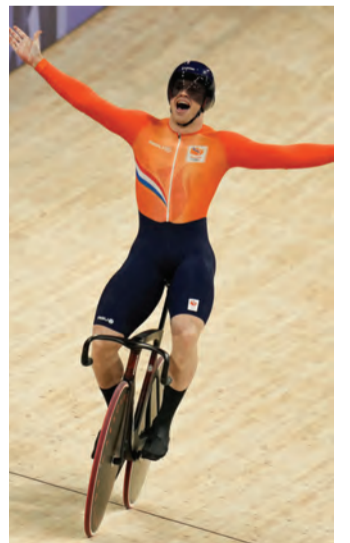
Dutch star Lavreysen smashes men's sprint track cycling world record

Dutch defending Olympic champion Harrie Lavreysen shattered the men's individual sprint world record in track cycling yesterday in qualifying, just minutes after Australia's Matthew Richardson lowered the mark.

Lavreysen, who led the Netherlands to the team sprint gold medal on Tuesday, flew round the Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines velodrome in 9.088secs.

His sensational ride came on the heels of Richardson becoming the first man ever under 9.100 when he clocked 9.091 to smash Nicholas Paul's five-year-old world mark.

A slew of new world records have been set at the lightening-fast Paris track,



Harrie Lavreysen in action

with eight on the opening two days of competition before Lavreysen's exploits yesterday.